Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rubber crawler track to be driven by a driving device, the rubber crawler track comprising:

a rubber crawler body shaped as an endless belt made of a rubber elastic body;

a layer comprising a plurality of steel cords embedded in said rubber crawler body; and

metal cores embedded in said rubber crawler body at a fixed interval in a crawler circumferential direction, each of said metal cores comprising

an engaging portion formed at the center in a metal core length direction;

guide protrusions for preventing wheel run-off;

wing portions, said guide protrusions and said wing portions each being formed at opposite sides of the engaging portion; and

horizontal protrusions formed on sides of the metal core in a width direction of the metal core ~~cores on~~ at ~~least one of~~ opposite sides of said engaging portion ~~within the thickness of the wing portion in the metal core vertical direction and an area on the tread side below the thickness~~, said horizontal protrusions facing adjacent metal cores in the crawler circumferential direction and overlapping the horizontal protrusions of adjacent metal cores ~~within a fixed length of the ends of the horizontal protrusions ends in a crawler width direction and in a crawler thickness direction~~,

wherein a distance "r" in the crawler circumferential direction between the ends of the horizontal protrusions and adjacent metal cores is expressed as $\Delta r \leq r \leq 2\Delta r$ when the rubber crawler track is horizontal, wherein $\Delta r = 2\pi$ h/n, wherein "h" is the distance from the layer of steel cords to portions of the horizontal protrusions that contact one another when the crawler track is wound around a sprocket, and "n" is the number of

teeth of the sprocket for engaging the rubber crawler track.

2. (Currently amended) A rubber crawler track according to claim 1, ~~comprising:~~

~~a rubber crawler body shaped as an endless belt made of a rubber elastic body;~~

~~a layer comprising a plurality of steel cords embedded in said rubber crawler body;~~

~~and~~

~~metal cores embedded in said rubber crawler body at a fixed interval in a crawler circumferential direction, each of said metal cores comprising~~

~~an engaging portion formed at the center in a metal core length direction;~~

~~guide protrusions for preventing wheel run-off;~~

~~wing portions, said guide protrusions and said wing portions each being formed at opposite sides of the engaging portion; and~~

~~horizontal protrusions formed on sides of the metal core in a width direction of the metal cores on at least one of opposite sides of said engaging portion within the thickness of the wing portion in the metal core vertical direction and an area on the tread side below the thickness, said horizontal protrusions facing adjacent metal cores in the crawler circumferential direction and overlapping the horizontal protrusions of adjacent metal cores within a fixed length of the ends of the horizontal protrusions ends in a crawler width direction and in a crawler thickness direction,~~

wherein the horizontal protrusions have ends, and a tapered horn portion is provided on an end of one of the horizontal protrusions on ~~at least~~ one side of each metal core.

3. (Previously presented) A method of producing a metal core for a rubber crawler track, the metal core to be embedded in an endless belt-shaped rubber crawler body made of a rubber elastic body, said rubber crawler track including a plurality of embedded steel cords extending in a crawler circumferential direction, comprising:

forming an engaging portion at the center of said metal core in a metal core length direction;

forming, on opposite sides of said engaging portion, both guide protrusions for preventing wheel run-off and wing portions, wherein the guide protrusions are shifted from a centerline of the metal core in a width direction of the metal core;

providing horizontal protrusions in a metal core width direction on at least one side of said engaging portion within a thickness of the wing portion in a vertical direction of the metal core and an area on the tread side below the thickness;

forming a parting plane of a mold for producing the metal core so that the mold can be parted longitudinally in the metal core width direction;

shifting said parting plane at the guide protrusions and in the direction that the guide protrusions are shifted; and

shifting trimming tapers of guide tops of the guide protrusions in the direction that the guide protrusions are.

4. (Previously presented) A metal core produced by the method of claim 3.